

BUILDINGS NEVER FINISHED.

Curious History of Some Enterprises Begun Long Ago in England.

A fine church in the village of Massall, near Sandbach, has been the sport of all the winds that blow since about 1837, says Stray Stories.

Begun in 1836, and designed to seat some 500 people, it grew steadily till shortly after the accession of Queen Victoria in the following year.

The day after that historical event the founder—a private gentleman—was seized with a fatal illness, and consequently his intentions were unfulfilled, notwithstanding that the structure was so far advanced that they could have been carried out at small expense. Since then the building has remained unfinished.

A similar history is attached to an uncompleted church in Somerset. According to local report, too, a church at Stourport, in Worcestershire, is never to be finished, although it has been in course of construction for a very long period.

Near a railway in a certain Lancashire town, for instance, there is a row of half-built cottages. This conglomeration of bricks and mortar was thrown together many years ago by an enterprising speculator, who thought that the railway would be carried across the land which it occupies, and that he would therefore be able to sell at an excellent profit.

But his anticipations were not realized, so he left the embryo cottages to their fate. On his death his estate passed into chancery, and for this and other reasons it is extremely improbable that the property will ever be finished.

Numbers of structures now in a more or less ruinous condition are so because the builders laid their plans too hastily. A curious instance is a part of a lighthouse on the summit of St. Catherine's hill, in the Isle of Wight.

When this edifice was well advanced the tardy discovery was made that, owing to the height to which it would reach, fog or clouds would obscure the beacon at the top. The structure was consequently abandoned.

Equally curious is the history of a picturesque ruin on Mow cop, near Congleton. A certain gentleman determined to build a castle on this eminence.

When it was nearly completed the owner of the adjoining estate came forward and claimed that the hill top was in his domain. So, in fact, it proved, and as a result the proposed castle remains unfinished to this day.

There are, moreover, some buildings which are designed incomplete. Near Southport stands a residence which, though it seems to be finished, always has men working on it—painters, paper-hangers, etc.

The reason is continually in the hands of such artisans is that when it is completed it must be surrendered; so the occupier takes care that it cannot be pronounced finished. In fact, it will never be completed.

Cathedrals will never be really finished. Large staffs of masons, etc., are permanently engaged on them, as men are always painting the Forth bridge and others are repairing the Liverpool landing stage.

They Expect Rewards.

A lady doctor to an Indian hospital tells of the trouble sometimes entailed in inducing the friends of a patient to allow her to remain there until she is really convalescent. Directly a sufferer is a little better they desire to take her home. Patients who remain for any length of time in hospital, commonly regard themselves as real heroines; and, most peculiar of all, when a patient has been preserved from almost certain death she very likely argues that this fact must greatly enhance the doctor's reputation, and so she expects a present of a gaudy cotton or silk petticoat as a reward for having afforded such an opportunity.

A Tree in a Tree.

At Moulton, South Lincolnshire, there is a willow tree which, in consequence of having been beheaded and having reached an old age, has become hollow and rotten. From a seed which has dropped into the hollow a healthy green tree has grown to a height of ten feet.

QUEER CAUSES OF FIRES.

Cat May Have Set Gin Ablaze—Ad-Juster's Experience.

"A fire insurance adjuster runs afoul of many queer happenings," said one of these gentlemen a short time ago, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"I once had to adjust a fire loss in a country cotton gin. The gin wasn't totally destroyed, and the origin of the fire was a complete mystery, not a soul in connection with the gin being able to explain the cause of the fire. All precautions necessary in a steam gin plant had been carefully observed and no fire or matches had been permitted near the cotton. After careful investigation with no results I began to examine the burned part of the building, and it struck me that some substance might have struck the teeth of the gin and ignited the cotton. After a most careful search, what do you think I found? Some small charred bones, which offered sufficient explanation. I showed the bones to the manager of the gin, and after thinking a moment he exclaimed: 'Why, that's all that's left of our old cat and her kittens.' He said that he had missed the cat and kittens, but thought they had been destroyed in the fire, and never dreamed that they had caused the fire. From this explanation it appeared that the cat took her kittens to the cotton bin above the gin, and, having gone to sleep, was carried down into the gin, and the bones striking the saws caused the fire.

"Another case came under my observation which caused me some amusement. A saloon keeper had a fire, during which 18 barrels of whisky were rolled out of the building, and after the fire was put out they were rolled back. The damage was very slight on the building and stock, but he claimed a loss of about one-third of each barrel of whisky rolled out, caused, as he claimed, by leakage. The barrels were gauged, but I didn't believe him and held up his claim. I soon afterward got hold of the revenue inspector for the district and got his report on the man's whisky, which proved that at the time of the fire there was more whisky in the barrels than there was when the inspector gauged it, which was a violation of the internal revenue law. The inspector took my cue and immediately went down and made another inspection, with the result that the saloon keeper was fined \$500 for having contraband whisky on hand, and, in addition eight barrels of the liquor were forfeited. Did I pay the claim? Well, I guess not."

HOPE FOR THE BIRDS.

French Milliners Agree Not to Use Stuffed Birds on Hats.

Birds are to be worn more than ever in millinery, but the bird-lovers need not despair, for these trimmings birds are made in Paris and never sang a song, says the San Francisco Argonaut. The stuffed bird, in fact, is being eliminated from millinery for what might be termed natural causes.

They have come to be regarded as tasteless by French milliners, as they cannot be handled with at all the same ease and effect that the made birds can. The wings of the stuffed bird are stiff, those of the made bird are pliable and easily bent to follow a crown or bent around the hat rim.

The feathers of common birds killed for food or because they are nuisances are used to make these birds.

The much-criticized heron's egret will not be seen in millinery after the first of the year, the milliners' association having come to an agreement with the Audubon society to that effect. Aligrettes, however, will be seen, whose use will not violate this agreement. It is found that peacock and other common feathers can be chemically treated to duplicate almost perfectly the egret.

Coque plumes are to be very much used. Beautiful specimens are shown, rivaling in exquisite finish the best ostrich plumes. Marabout feathers, too, will be popular and beautiful, and costly feather capes of this and other varieties will be worn by those who can afford them.

A Good Way, Too.

The way to convince some people is by letting them alone.—Washington (D. C.) Democrat.

ROMANCE OF THE PAPACY.

Secrets of the Vatican That Have Reached Public Knowledge.

As a rule the secrets of the Vatican are well kept and most of the stories that are told apropos of the new pope must be taken with a grain of salt. Now and again, however, something of the romance of the papacy really leaks out, though not through the cardinals. There was, for example, says an exchange, the strange case of Pope Pius IX., pretty well known a generation ago, but now almost forgotten. In his younger days, when he was Count Master Ferrari and a layman he met and fell in love with Miss Foster, daughter of the Irish Protestant bishop of Kilmore, who was living in Italy with her sister, Mme. De Salis. Miss Foster favored the young count, but Mme. De Salis drove the lover away. Afterward she relented, the count returned and the wedding day was fixed. On the appointed day the bride and her friends were at the church, but no bridegroom appeared and Count Master Ferrari was never seen again. Years afterward Miss Foster went to see Pope Pius IX. and was astonished to recognize in the pontiff her old flame the count.

The most sensational novelst could not have invented a plot more fascinating than the real story of Pope Leo's predecessor. Mme. De Salis had made an unhappy marriage with an Italian, and her parents, fearing a similar fate for the younger daughter, made her promise to guard Miss Foster against a union with a foreigner, hence her interference to separate the lovers; it was only when her sister pined away that Mme. De Salis relented. The disappearance of the count had quite a flavor of Dumas about it. Unknown to his fiancée he was bound to the Jesuits, and his superiors in the order peremptorily sent him away on a mission to prevent his marriage with an Englishwoman and a Protestant. Letters were intercepted and he was led to believe that she had married another, so he took orders and rapidly rose to be bishop, then cardinal and eventually pope. Then in the height of his grandeur he was brought face to face with the woman he had loved and lost. Nothing more dramatic has ever been staged.

WEALTH THROWN AWAY.

In Waste Baskets of Chicago Great Fortunes Are Concealed.

"In the waste baskets in Chicago," said a business man the other day, according to the Chicago Tribune, "there is wealth enough to make any one man independently rich for life."

"Come again," said the doubting friend.

"Rich for life," went on the other. "You don't see how? Of course you don't. I do."

"Did you ever consider the thousands and thousands of waste baskets that are emptied by the janitors in offices every night? Well, suppose you could get all that paper. Your income every day would be in the hundreds of dollars. That is, if you simply sold the paper to pulp mills."

"But suppose you could add to that tidy income by possessing yourself of the stamps that are dropped into the waste basket by mistake? There would be another fine item in your income."

"Suppose, then, if your conventional mind will permit you to stray so far afield, that a man could buy all the business secrets that he could find lying in waste baskets. He would have, I assure you, such a lever that he could pry solid gold into his bank account."

"Why, man, there is more money going to waste in the waste baskets in this town every day than many men make in a long life of hard work. I wish I could buy the privilege of taking all the stuff. That's all."

Bible Translations.

During the last hundred years the Bible has been translated into more than 350 languages, which nine-tenths of the human race can read.

Emblematic.

A large bronze cage with one wing broken and dropped is to be the chief feature of the French monument on the field of Waterloo.

JAPANESE HOMES.

Are Simple and Easily Constructed Affairs Without Doors or Halls.

A Japanese house consists in the main of a post at each corner and a roof, says the Detroit Free Press. The roof may or may not be covered with heavy channeled purplish tiles—it makes little difference in the long run whether it is or is not, for if it is not tiled the first typhoon that comes along removes it into somebody's garden anything up to a quarter of a mile away, and if it is tiled heavily enough to resist the typhoon so much the worse for the people underneath it when the first genuine earthquake arrives. But the odds are that it will be burned down before either happens, as the Japanese use very cheap lamps and very fiery petroleum and are regular children about fires. Of course something else is done to the four posts and the roof before they become houses in which births, marriages and deaths can take place. But really remarkably little is necessary. Cross beams are naturally added to support the weight of the roof, grooves are made in the cross beams and in the platform raised a foot or two above the ground which constitutes the floor. A Japanese house is all on one floor generally—in fact, one might say it is all on one floor. Between the grooves in the floor and the grooves in the cross beams are run shutters with paper panels to divide the houses into whatever number of rooms the owner may choose, which depends on the number of bedrooms he may require. There are no doors or passages in a typical Japanese house. In it every room acts as a passage into the room beyond it and for the door you slide back the panel that happens to be nearest to you.

For this sliding there are little bronze sunk handles in the wooden frames of the panels. The outside paper shutters do not come quite to the edge of the platform floor, the grooves along the edges are filled at night or in severe weather with wooden shutters, each of which is held in its place by the one that follows it, the last one being secured with a flimsy wooden bolt.

PUBLIC BATHS OF PARIS.

Conservative Dislike of Water Outwardly Applied Hard to Overcome.

A curious little print has come to light through the publication of a report in the French Bulletin Official of the number of people who have profited by public baths to give themselves an elementary wash. It is needless to say that the number is not startlingly large in proportion to the population. The use of the bath makes but slow progress among the French, except in the upper classes, among whom it is an honored institution—in Paris, at least. The provincials are a little behindhand in their love of water outwardly applied, and still speak of a "bain de propreté" or a "bain de sante" as a remedy to be used but sparingly.

French workingmen are more apt to adopt habits of personal cleanliness than working women, who are strictly conservative in these matters, and look upon these matters with deep suspicion. Nevertheless they are in one respect more enterprising than the men. Only one man in every thousand, according to the Bulletin Official, takes swimming lessons from the bath keepers, while one woman out of every fifteen does her best to acquire the art. But this only proves, what the philosophic observer of mankind has long suspected, that women are even more anxious than men to be always "in the swim."

Paper Stockings.

Paper gloves and stockings are now being manufactured in Europe. The stockings have been carefully examined by experts and they are loud in their praise of them. Let no one assume, they say, that these stockings, because they are made of paper, will only last a few days, for they will last almost as long as ordinary stockings. The reason is because the paper of which they are made was during the process of manufacture rendered into a substance closely resembling wool, and then woven and otherwise treated as ordinary wool.

SHERIFF'S SALE IN PARTITION.

Edgar W. Lillard and Bettie Lillard, Defendants, vs. Edgar W. Lillard and Bettie Lillard, Plaintiffs. Partition. In the Circuit Court of Lafayette County, Missouri.

By virtue of an order and decree of the circuit court of Lafayette county, Missouri, rendered at the session of said court, held at Lexington, in the above entitled cause, at the adjourned August term, 1904, of said circuit court, issued from the office of the clerk of said circuit court, to me directed and returnable to the December term, 1904, at Lexington, of said court, I, the undersigned, sheriff of Lafayette county, Missouri, will on

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 1904, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon of said day, in front of the court house door, in the city of Lexington, Lafayette county, Missouri, during the session of said court of said county, sell publicly, by auction, to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, the following described real estate, situate, lying and being in said Lafayette county, Missouri, to-wit: Ten acres off of the east end of the north half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, all in section thirteen, township forty-nine of range twenty-four, in Lafayette county, Missouri. Said land to be sold clear of taxes, including year 1904.

Given under my hand this 20th day of October, 1904.

OSCAR THOMAS, Sheriff.

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J. O. LESUEUR, Trustee. Lexington, Mo., November 12, 1904.

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

Whereas, Charles W. Hill, a single man, by his deed of trust, dated June 20th, 1890, recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Lafayette County, Missouri, in Book 96 at page 214, conveyed to the undersigned, as trustee, the following described real estate situate in said Lafayette County, Missouri, to-wit: Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, in Block 40 in the town of Anville, in trust to secure the payment of the notes in said deed described and whereof, default having been made in the payment of one of said notes, I will, at the request of the legal holder of said note, sell publicly, at auction to the highest bidder, for cash, at the front door of the court house, in the city of Lexington, in said Lafayette county, on Saturday, the 3rd day of December, 1904, between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, the property above described for the purpose of satisfying said debt and the expenses of executing said debt.

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